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PAGE 01 STATE 061576

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TOSEC 755

TO THE SECRETARY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON LOURENCO
MARQUES LUANDA MADRID PARIS NATO DIA USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
OPORTO PONTA DELGADA MARCH 18, 1975 FROM LISBON REPEATED
TO YOU:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL ROUNDUP

REF: LISBON 1470

1. MDP-SOCIALIST SQUABBLE:

THE PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) RESPONDED MARCH 17
TO AN ATTACK THE PREVIOUS DAY BY SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN OPORTO (REFTEL). SOARES HAD CLAIMED
THAT THE MDP SHOULD NOT ENTER THE GOVERNING COALITION BECAUSE
IT IS NOT A REPRESENTATIVE, INDEPENDENT POLITICAL FORCE. IN

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PAGE 02 STATE 061576

REFUTING THESE CHARGES, THE MDP REITERATED ITS CLAIM THAT IT

IS DEPENDENT ON NO OTHER PARTY (READ THE PCP) AND IS A REPRESENTATIVE FORCE. THE MDP THEN ATTACKED MARIO SOARES, CLAIMING THAT HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS MDP WAS AN "IMPORTANT FACTOR" IN THE DETERIORATION OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE ON THE EVEN OF THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT. FURTHERMORE, SOCIALIST DISCRIMINATION AND RESERVE IN REGARD TO THE MDP IS NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE APPEAL FOR UNITY OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES MADE BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENT. THE PS, ASSERTED THE MDP, MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY ARISING FROM ITS HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE MDP AND FROM ITS FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION WITH RIGHT-WING PARTIES (READ PPD) NOW BLOCKING THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.

2. SANCHES OSORIO REPLACED AS PDC LEADER:

THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, WHOSE SECRETARY-GENERAL SANCHES OSORIO IS ABSENT IN PARTS UNKNOWN (EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS HE IN FATIMA AND TRYING TO GET OUT OF COUNTRY) DECIDED IN MARCH 12 MEETING TO TURN LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY OVER TO DR. COSTA GIGUEIRA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND TO ITS POLITICAL COMMITTEE. AT SAME TIME PDC DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT.

3. PPD, CDS, AND PDC OFFICES IN VIANA DO CASTELO DESTROYED:

ON MARCH 14, AFTER A PRO-AFM RALLY IN VIANO DO CASTELO SPONSORED BY PCP, MDP, AND FSP, CROWDS ATTACKED AND DESTROYED LOCAL HEADQUARTERS AND DOCUMENTS OF THE PPD, CDS, AND PDC. POLITICAL IDENTIFY OF ATTACKERS, HOWEVER, IS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE PRESS.

4. MRPP CANDIDATE SOUGHT FOR THEFT:

ACTING ON A TIP, POLICE FORCES IN LEIRIA ARE REPORTEDLY SEARCHING FOR AN INDIVIDUAL SAID TO BE AN MRPP CANDIDATE FOR LEIRIA WHO ALLEGEDLY TOOK PART SOME MONTHS AGO IN THE ROBBERY/MURDER OF A NIGHT WATCHMAN IN LISBON. THE MRPP, WHEN CONTACTED, SAID THAT THE ACCUSATION AGAINST ITS MEMBER IS PART OF AN ON-GOING "MALCIOUS" CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PARTY.

5. CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION PROGRAM REVITALIZED:

LT. RAMIRO CORREIA, LEADER OF THE ARMED FORCES CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION CAMPAIGN, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 17 TO ANNOUNCE A NEW ARMED FORCES CIVIC ACTION CAMPAIGN. NEW PROGRAM WILL BEGIN IN VISEU WITH 10 MIXED TEAMS OF 15 PERSONS EACH FROM MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY (REPUBLICAN NATIONAL GUARD AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 061576

PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE) FORCES. EMPHASIS OF NEW CAMPAIGN WILL BE ON SOLVING SPECIFIC LOCAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS ACQUAINTING TEAM MEMBERS WITH NATIONAL REALITIES. (LT. CORREIA STATED THAT A REVOLUTION CANNOT BE MADE BY PEOPLE UNFAMILIAR WITH NATION'S PROBLEMS.) CORREIA, A MEMBER OF THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, ALSO STATED THAT CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES IN PAST HAD OPPOSED CONTINUATION OF CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION CAMPAIGN, BUT THAT PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN THEY SUPPORT THE PROGRAM.

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